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LENTILS
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U.S. LENTIL EXPORTS CONTINUE UPWARD

U.S. lentil exports totaled 531,000 bags (of 100 pounds each) in calendar year 1965. This is undoubtedly another new high record and is at least the sixth consecutive year of such records. (First export data for U.S. lentils became available just five years before in 1960, when 154,000 bags were reported shipped through Pacific Northwest ports only.) The 1965 total is not strictly comparable with earlier-year figures, because data reported before January 1, 1965 covered only part of the trade, i.e., that passing through Pacific Northwest ports. Beginning January 1, 1965, lentil exports were reported for all U.S. ports, so that in 1965 for the first time total shipments were recorded.

The bulk of the trade always flows through Northwest ports, however, as the producing area is nearby. Exports via the Pacific Northwest only, in 1965, totaled 472,000 bags, compared with 405,000 bags in 1964, 360,000 in 1963, and 154,000 in 1960; each year from the date of earliest record, these shipments have increased.

With exports currently as high as one-half million bags annually, the United States has become one of the world's major exporters of this commodity. Earlier, Lebanon, Syria, and Chile were the world's leading exporters. Their trade ranged from 200,000 to 800,000 bags per year, with each supplier generally near the lower end of this range.

Europe took 88 percent of total U.S. exports in 1965; other North American countries, 6 percent; South America, 4 percent; and "other," 2 percent. Principal markets in Europe were Germany, the Netherlands (mainly for re-export), and France. Principal markets in Central and South America were Panama and Venezuela.

Not only have U.S. lentil exports multiplied in volume, but also the number of destinations has doubled -- from 15 to 17 countries in the early 1960's to a total of 35 countries in 1965. In the last two years, seven new countries were added to the market in Europe, five in Asia, and three in Africa.

Before the 1960's, the United States was a net importer of lentils at an average level of 90,000 to 100,000 bags per year. These imports came principally from Chile. In those years, U.S. lentil production was small, approximating 75,000 bags per year, compared with approximately 800,000 bags in some recent years. As a result of increasing domestic production, U.S. lentil imports have dwindled to little more than 1,000 bags annually.

Because of large lentil stocks and low prices in recent years, growers reduced the 1965 acreage sharply. Prices rose in late 1965 and currently are quoted at \$11.60 per cwt., f.o.b. producing area, compared with \$6.30 a year earlier and \$8.50 in March 1964.

LENTILS: U.S. exports by destination, 1960-65, calendar years

Destination	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965
	Bags (100-lb.)	Bags (100-lb.)	Bags (100-lb.)	Bags (100-lb.)	Bags (100-lb.)	Bags (100-lb.)
North America:						
Canada	--	--	--	--	--	1,440
Canal Zone	3,607	3,666	3,507	3,020	8,760	--
Costa Rica	--	--	76	240	460	335
Cuba	1,108	--	--	--	--	--
Dominican Republic	25	65	70	280	--	160
El Salvador	2	14	6	4	--	--
French West Indies	709	334	--	--	1,000	1,679
Guatemala	--	--	132	132	--	14
Leeward and Windward Islands	--	--	--	--	--	80
Mexico	--	333	--	--	--	1,990
Panama	2,530	3,724	6,373	5,174	2,560	19,514
Puerto Rico	28	76	133	--	--	--
Trinidad and Tobago	--	100	--	--	--	4,247
Total	8,009	8,312	10,297	8,850	12,780	29,459
South America:						
Brazil	--	--	--	--	22,220	--
Colombia	--	44,402	--	--	45,200	60
Peru	--	--	3,160	8,516	4,100	4,400
Surinam	--	--	--	--	--	200
Venezuela	3,722	6,421	7,463	16,406	31,060	19,066
Total	3,722	50,823	10,623	24,922	102,580	23,726
Europe:						
Austria	--	--	--	--	--	1,430
Belgium-Luxembourg	--	777	3,657	2,200	17,435	6,758
Denmark	--	--	--	--	--	1,100
France	736	1,559	2,327	4,142	20,025	43,072
Germany, East	--	--	--	--	--	30,900
Germany, West	36,684	15,030	86,286	114,853	92,021	200,992
Greece	--	--	--	--	504	4,126
Italy	780	--	663	--	--	12,586
Netherlands	103,128	114,233	208,509	202,559	153,994	138,444
Norway	--	--	--	--	20	--
Spain	--	--	--	--	2,959	23,049
Sweden	--	67	--	100	160	496
Switzerland	--	--	--	--	--	2,530
Yugoslavia	--	--	--	--	440	--
Total	141,328	131,666	301,442	323,854	287,558	465,483
Asia:						
Arabia	--	--	--	--	100	--
Bahrein	--	--	--	--	--	31
Iraq	595	338	1,148	1,025	700	--
Israel	--	--	--	--	--	109
Japan	--	--	--	--	260	--
Kuwait	--	--	--	--	--	1,020
Philippines Republic	107	202	51	260	--	423
Saudi Arabia	--	--	--	--	--	786
Total	702	540	1,199	1,285	1,060	2,369
Africa:						
Guinea	--	--	--	--	--	2,484
Liberia	--	--	--	--	--	24
Libya	--	--	--	--	--	24
Total	--	--	--	--	--	2,532
Oceania:						
Australia	89	--	44	1,304	1,340	5,565
French Pacific Islands	--	--	--	--	--	1,887
Total	89	--	44	1,304	1,340	7,452
Grand total	153,849	191,342	323,605	360,215	405,318	531,022

Source: Data for 1960-1964, Pacific Northwest Pea Growers and Dealers Association, Inc.; 1965 from Bureau of Census.

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